

# Summary: New Neighbors Arrive

## From Around the World

The growing economy of the United States in the 1960s created a need for more workers. In response, Congress passed the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 to make it easier for people to come to the country. People who already had relatives here could more easily join them, and immigration by skilled and professional workers was encouraged. By 1970, most immigrants to California came from other countries rather than other parts of the United States. Between 1970 and 1980, almost half our immigrants came from Mexico. Farms and businesses needed workers, and California is close to Mexico. Mexican American groups in California were already helping Mexicans.

## Coming from Asia

Asian immigrants could more easily enter the country under the new law. Between 1970 and 1980, about one-third of new immigrants were Asian Indian professionals from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. People from Korea and China also came in larger numbers. Some came because there were few jobs for them back home. Others came to escape unjust governments.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, the United States fought in the Vietnam War. Violence later spread to Laos and Cambodia, creating refugees from all three countries. Congress passed a law in 1975 to help them come here. California is now home to many from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

## Life in the United States

California attracts more immigrants than any other state in the country. Immigrants come looking for opportunities and a chance to live in freedom and safety. Many become naturalized citizens. Immigration is important to California because immigrants bring new labor, skills, and ideas to the economy. Second, their fresh ideas influence fashion, films, and music. Third, they build connections between the United States and other countries.



### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**professional** *noun*, a person who has special knowledge and training

**refugee** *noun*, a person who flees from war or danger to find safety someplace else

**naturalized citizen** *noun*, someone who was not born a citizen of a country but becomes one



### After You Read

**REVIEW** What kinds of immigrants did the 1965 law help? Highlight the sentences that give you this information.

**REVIEW** Which three countries were most affected by violence from the Vietnam War? Underline the sentences that tell which countries were involved in the war.

**REVIEW** Why is immigration important in California? Draw a box around the sentences that give you the details.